

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 5, please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] Figure 4 is a plan view of an exemplary blade installation tool 400 that may be used to facilitate installing a plurality of rotor blades 300 (shown in Figure 3). Figure 5 is a side elevation view of tool 400 taken along line 4-4 (shown in Figure 4). Tool 400 includes a blade engagement end 402 that includes a central opening 404. In the exemplary embodiment, end 402 includes a circularly-shaped body having a circularly-shaped opening therethrough. In alternative embodiments, other shaped bodies are contemplated such that engagement end 402 is configured to fulfill the requirements discussed below. Engagement end 402 also includes a pad 406 coupled to an engagement face 408 of engagement end 402. In the exemplary embodiment, pad 406 is fabricated from a material that is softer than a material from which blade 300 is fabricated from. Pad 406 facilitates protecting blade 300 during an installation process. Additionally, pad 406 transmits an installation force from engagement face 408 to blades 300 during the installation process. Tool 400 includes at least one brace 410 coupled to engagement end 402 to support a guide end 412. Guide end 412 includes a guide opening 414 therethrough. In the exemplary embodiment, a first end of brace 410 is welded to engagement end 402 such that brace 410 does not interfere with pad 406 and/or any of the plurality of blades 300 during the installation process. A second end of brace 410 is coupled to guide end 412 such that during the installation process engagement end 402 and guide end 412 are substantially co-axially aligned with longitudinal axis 415. In the exemplary embodiment, four braces 410 are welded to engagement end 402 and guide end 412. In an alternative embodiment, at least one brace 410 is hingedly coupled to engagement end 402 and guide end 412 such that during non-use engagement end 402 and guide end 412 may not be substantially co-axially aligned. In the exemplary embodiment, engagement end 402 includes a plurality of fastener holes for coupling pad 406 to engagement end 402 using fasteners 416 such as, but not limited to, rivets, nuts and bolts, and pins. In alternative embodiments, pad 406 may be coupled to engagement end 402 using non- fasteners, such as, but not limited to, adhesive, friction fit, and interference fit. In the exemplary embodiment, tool 400 includes at least one handle 418 coupled to brace 410 to

facilitate applying manual force to tool 400. Handle 418 includes a first end 420 coupled to brace 410 and a second opposite end 422 that may be configured for ergonomic manual grasping. Handle 418 may couple to brace 410 perpendicularly. Alternatively, handle 418 may be coupled to brace 410 at an angle that is predetermined to facilitate grasping and applying a force to tool 400.